DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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Pogromist in West German Ministry

"I URGED HITLER TO DEPORT JEWS"

A leading nazi official, who urged upon Hitler the deportation of Jews to eastern Europe and thus laid the foundation for their liquidation, is now head of the East European Department of the West German Foreign Ministry.

This mass-murderer is Dr. Otto Braeutigam, former official in Ribbentrop's Foreign Ministry, who in 1941 was seconded to Alfred Rosenberg's Ministry for Occupied Eastern Territories.

During the war years, Braeutigam kept a diary. Parts of this diary have now been discovered, and made available to the press by the Committee for German Unity in Berlin. On pages 45—48 of this issue we present extracts from this diary to the readers of GERMAN REPORT.

In this diary you can read how, on September 14th 1941, Braeutigam rushed to Hitler's headquarters "to get the Fuehrer's approval" for the project to deport all Jews from central Europe, and how he later returned to his quarters "glad to have been able to carry out the mission".

Now turn to page 45, to read in his own words what this "defender of western democracy" has to say about his war-time activities.

Britain Missing Bus In East-West Trade Exchange

Britain, France and other countries were in danger of missing the bus in East-West trade if they did not establish proper trade relations with the German Democratic Republic, East German Deputy Prime Minister Heinrich Rau warned at the opening of the great Leipzig Spring Fair on February 26th. Barter trade, which has hitherto formed the basis for much western trade with the German Democratic Republic, could in future only be resorted to in exceptional cases, Minister Rau stated.

Products from 38 different countries were on show at the Leipzig Spring Fair. It was the greatest fair ever held in the city.

Official government delegations from dozens of countries in East and West were present at the fair, which is the world's biggest opportunity for the peaceful exchange of goods between the capitalist and socialist world markets. Official guests at the Fair included the Austrian Minister for Trade and Reconstruction Dr Udo Illig; Egyptian State Minister of Production, Hassan Ibrahim; Burmese Government Production Director U Ton Teodor Thein; Indian Deputy State Secretary for the Textile Industry Sabanayagans; and many others.

Opening the Fair on February 26th, Heinrich Rau, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Trade Minister of the German Democratic Republic emphasised that the Republic was ready and able to increase trade relations with all nations, but that in future trade relations would be conducted more and more on conventional lines, and that barter agreements would only be concluded in exceptional cases.

In this connection Minister Rau stated:

"There are a number of states which believe that they have to be very careful in concluding official trade agreements with the German Democratic Republic. We believe that the time has come for the governmental and business circles of the countries of the capitalist world market to consider whether their practice hitherto has been in accordance with mutual interests.

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Britain Missing Bus

"We believe for instance that trade on a barter basis is not likely to lead to the development of broadly-based trade. Barter agreements must remain exceptions; barter trade has no future, and we must state quite frankly that we are not ready to extend trade on this basis . . . Expanded trade is only possible when it is conducted on the basis of official trade agreements."

Minister Rau stated that it was obvious that those countries which rejected East-West trade on political grounds would obviously lag behind under the existing conditions of increased competition in the export trade, and added:

"Commercial circles particularly in France and Britain should consider this. I would emphasise that we should be glad if the Governments of Britain, France, and also Italy, would finally create fitting conditions for a broad development of trade with the German Democratic Republic.

"With regard to imports, our Republic has a great and growing demand for agricultural products. This creates a favourable atmosphere for the development of our trade with those countries which export almost exclusively agricultural products; that is to say our trade with those countries which are industrially under-developed. Our industry is in a position to supply such countries with the necessary technical aid, and our Government is also ready to give such countries broad economic assistance.

"This is the basis for the broadening basis of our relations with such countries as Egypt, India, Burma, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon and others. It also provides a good basis for the development of our trade with the Latin American states, and such countries as Turkey, Greece, Portugal and Spain."

Minister Rau announced that the German Democratic Republic was ready at the Leipzig Fair to conclude export agreements to a value of 520 million marks (about 90 million pounds sterling). Most of this trade would be with the capitalist countries, since trade agreements with the socialist countries had already been concluded to the limit of capacity.

ADENAUER'S COALITION JOLTED

West German Chancellor Adenauer's coalition received a severe shaking in the last days of February as a result of splits in the Free Democratic Party.

Chancellor Adenauer's coalition, which is composed of about two-thirds of the members of the West German Parliament, comprises 250 members of the Christian Democratic Union, 52 members of the Free Democratic Party, 15 members of the German Party, and several former members of the BHE (Refugee Party) who broke away from their party during 1955.

On February 23rd the Free Democratic Party split into two halves, when 16 members of its parliamentary fraction, including all four Ministers named by the party, announced their resignationn. Other members were expected to resign within a few days.

The main result of the split will be that Chancellor Adenauer can no longer be sure of receiving the unconditional support of two-thirds of the members of parliament which he needs for any legislation entailing changes in the constitution. This was expected to delay some of the legislation which has still to be passed in connection with the new Wehrmacht.

The split in the Free Democratic Party followed developments in the province of North Rhine Westphalia, where Free Democrats joined with the Social Democrats on February 20th to overthrow the provincial government, formerly dominated by Adenauer's Christian Democrats.

Questions of internal policy were the main reason for the split, but many influential members of the Free Democratic Party have opposed Adenauer's unconditionally pro-American foreign policy, and have called for a great expansion of trade with the east.

Letter Box

"Form Friendship Societies"

"A Coventry-Dresden Friendship Society was formed recently, with the object of fostering friendship and good understanding between the people of Germany generally, and between the people of Coventry and Dresden in particular.

"How was this done? I placed a small advertisement in the 'Personal Column' of our local newspaper asking readers who were interested in the formation of such a society to write to me. From those who replied a committee was formed. The Lord Mayor of Dresden was informed and asked to form a similar committee in Dresden to work in conjunction with the Coventry committee.

"This was done, and the seeds of a lasting friendship between our two cities have been sown. At present we are exchanging literature and encouraging correspondence between citizens of Coventry and Dresden. We hope to have exchange visits in the future with lectures and public meetings. We feel that friendship between Britain and Germany is vital to world peace. I should like to see this idea taken up by other cities. What about it? Why not Birmingham-Brandenburg, Manchester-Halle, Cardiff- Cottbus, Bristol- Rostock, Leeds-Leipzig, Edinburgh-Potsdam and so on?"

Edward Dixon
Coventry, England.
36 Balliol Road

(GERMAN REPORT gives its enthusiastic support to the initiative shown by Mr Dixon, former Labour Councillor in Coventry. We shall be glad to help in any way by putting such committees in touch with their opposite numbers in the German Democratic Republic.)

Soviet Team Beats British

A Soviet Army divisional football team beat the football team of the British Seventh Armoured Division by five to one in a friendly match played at Zossen in the German Democratic Republic on February 17th.

Old Jewish Gravestones Discovered

Excavations at Spandau in West Berlin have uncovered Jewish gravestones bearing fourteenth century dates. One stone uncovered was that of Sirak Moses Bikhar, who died in 1347.

"CHURCH MUST OPPOSE WAR POLICIES" – East German Minister

The Church in the German Democratic Republic has full religious liberty, but this liberty must not be misused to support the aggressive policies of NATO, East German Minister of the Interior Karl Maron told Bishops of the Evangelical Church in Berlin on February 10th.

Minister Maron was speaking to Bishop D. Mitzenheim, Bishop D. Krummacher, and other Evangelical leaders whom he had invited to a conference. Here are some of the main points which he made during the discussion:

"I have invited you to come to see me because of a series of events which show that church installations are being used to exploit citizens of the German Democratic Republic in favour of the plans of aggressive NATO politicians who threaten the peace of Europe and the peaceful reunification of Germany. I should like to inform you about some recent events."

Minister Karl Maron then drew the attention of the Church dignitaries to the fact that at the end of January officials of the Evangelical Church had invited Protestant peasants from the German Democratic Republic to meetings in West Berlin. These visitors were then handed rabble-rousing and lying propaganda directed against the policies of the German Democratic Republic. During a "Bible Hour", the Biblical story of Naboth's vineyard (1 Kings, 21) was presented as a parable attacking the German Democratic Republic: 'Naboth was stoned: the people's court had carried out a judicial murder: the plan was fulfilled: Naboth's vineyard was awarded to the King: it became a Royal-owned enterprise' (an obvious reference to the socialist farms and factories of the German Democratic Republic, which are called nationally-owned enterprises).

Minister Karl Maron then gave other examples:

"On January 29th, Church Counsellor Fraenkel of Goerlitz declared from the pulpit: 'The Evangelical Church in East Germany is a little piece of freedom in the midst of a very unfree world. Have we not been silent too long?' And after these words he begged God to overthrow every government which had turned its face away from God.

"At another church rally on this date Dean Kreysig of the Magdeburg Consistorium declared that their could be no peace and no co-existence with the Godless, since the Godless had no peace.

"I should like to remark in this connection that the time has come when the representatives of the Church should be a little more modest in this connection. The representatives of the materialist philosophy have not only the right, but also the duty to spread their scientific teachings everywhere. We are no longer living in the Dark Ages, when the representatives of religious superstitions could suppress progressive opinions.

"I regard it as my duty to make you aware of the serious consequences for the Church which such misuse of church installations can bring; I must ask you to take measures which will prevent a recurrence of such cases.

"We are glad to be able to state that many members of the Evangelical Church in the German Democratic Republic, and many of the clergy are working actively for the maintenance of peace. We shall use, however, the full authority of our state against those who do the opposite, and who misuse for this purpose their influence and position in the Church. That such things have happened and still happen is the real cause of the tension between the state and the Church leadership in the German Democratic Republic.

"I have to tell you with all seriousness that unless there is a change in the attitude of leading Church circles to the German Democratic Republic there is no chance of overcoming this tension."

A POET COMES HOME

By Stefan Heym

The man who died a hundred years ago today on a heap of mattresses in the city of Paris, Heinrich Heine, is one of the most controversial figures still. A hundred years after death, when other poets and writers have long been removed into Olympic sedateness and into the more or less dusty files of the historians of literature, this man, Heinrich Heine, still has enemies who would like to wipe out his memory, and partisans for whom he was and remains today the spokesman.

"I am the sword," he once wrote, "I am the flame . . ."

And a writer who considers himself a sword and a flame, the sword of humanity and the flame of revolution, necessarily has an effect on people's minds quite different from that which other authors, less passionate and more inclined to social compromise had. In a sense, Heine, who is mostly known abroad for his lilting lyric verse and his poetry of love, was the first m o d e r n German poet, the first German poet to have a deeper insight into the forces that make history.

If he had been just one of those romantic minstrels, would the Nazis have bothered to burn his books, in 1933? Would they have tried to extinguish his name by printing under the title of his immortal poem "Lorelei" the strange line, "Author unknown"? And would the authorities in today's Western Germany, in the so-called Federal Republic, refuse permission and funds for monuments to the poet in Dusseldorf and Hamburg, the cities where Heine was born and lived, if they weren't still afraid of his word?

For his word was searing, and he had a way of slashing at the forces of reaction and chauvinism which today is as sharp and potent as on the day he put pen to paper. He was not afraid of leaving behind him his poet's room and going out into the streets where people battled, and he sang of those battles and of the future and of the paradise which the people one day would build on this earth. He had a vision which was the vision of a poet and yet more than that. He learned from Hegel and he was a friend of Karl Marx; he was hounded into exile and he died in exile; he was a Jew and suffered by it and debated

all his life with a God whose existence he greatly doubted. He was a German and he loved the Germans — the people, not its kings and rulers — and he loved the French who fought the great revolutions of his time; he was a citizen of the world in the best sense of the word; and what he wrote in prose and in verse was then and is today a weapon in the struggle for the liberation of mankind.

I remember coming to Paris shortly after World War II and going to Montmartre and to the cemetery there where Heine lies. At the corner I bought a small bouquet of flowers. The guard at the cemetery gate said: "Ah, Monsieur wishes to visit Monsieur Henri Heine?" I asked how he knew, and he told me that whoever comes with flowers to the old cemetery on Montmartre comes to see Heinrich Heine and to leave his token of love at the grave. The stone, crowned by the head of the poet, half inclined, thoughtful, is remarkable — it is covered by inscriptions, quotations from his poetry; and these quotations were scratched in there during the night of Nazi occupation when people who were hounded as the poet himself was, sought refuge with him — physical refuge, and the refuge of the soul. For he, Heine, had prophesied that a new world was coming, and he had written for it and sung for it and fought for it.

Although Heine, who died a hundred years ago, was not a Communist, he stated that his newspaper reports to the A u g s b u r g e r Allgemeine Zeitung practically gave intelligence to the "Union of Communists" which at that time was fighting underground in Germany. Communism, as he said himself, "exercises a fascination on my soul against which I cannot defend myself."

Heine believed that people have certain inalienable rights, and there must be justice, and he wrote: "If I cannot disprove the premise that all men have the right to eat, then I am forced to subject myself to all its consequences . . . and I proclaim loudly: This old society, it has been judged and condemned long ago! May justice be done! May it be destroyed, this old world, where innocence was annihilated, where cynicism flourished, where man was exploited by man!"

It could have been written today — it was written, by Heinrich Heine, more than a hundred years ago.

He also wrote: "If I think of Germany at night, I cannot sleep."

Today, too, thousands of people cannot sleep at night when they think of what is happening in Western Germany — where the same powers which Heine fought in his day have been resurrected once more and are being armed with atomic weapons.

But today, too, there exists already another Germany, a different Germany, a Germany trying to live up to the great poet's vision, a Germany where exploitation of man by man is being abolished, where an end is being put to the influence of the chauvinists and the philistines and the bigots and the profiteers and of all those whom Heine castigated with the whip of his word.

In this Germany, in the German Democratic Republic, the poet and fighter Heinrich Heine has assumed the place due him among the great of his nation. In this Germany, in its plants and factories and mills, on its farms and in its villages, its town halls and theatres and schools, thousands of people are meeting today to pay homage to their poet, to the prophet of a better time — that better time which is being made a reality in the German Democratic Republic. Here monuments are being erected to him and, more important, his works are being published in large editions and are being read by hundreds of thousands of people, by workers and students, farmers and engineers, young and old; and in the school books of the German Democratic Republic his poems are printed no longer with the byline "Auther Unknown", but under his name, Heinrich Heine.

The poet of the people, a hundred years after his death, has found his people.

Heine Notes

An official ceremony was held in Dusseldorf, West Germany, on February 17th, the hundredth anniversary of Heine's death. The organisers of the celebration had originally requested Max Brod of Israel to hold the memorial speech. Max Brod, who lived in Prague until driven out by the nazis, is an internationally recognised authority on Heinrich Heine.

The original plans were hurriedly altered at the last moment after a spokesman of the West German Government had declared that it would be "an act of sabotage to have a writer of Jewish origin to speak at a state ceremony."

* * *

Celebrations in honour of the centenary of Heinrich Heine's death were held in all parts of the German Democratic Republic. At an official centenary celebration in East Berlin a representative of the Ministry of Culture announced that an annual "Heinrich Heine Literature Prize" would be awarded in future. A memorial plaque to Heine was unveiled on the East Berlin house where Heine lived in the 1820's.

* * *

Heinrich Heine is practically unknown in the schools of West Germany, the Hamburg newspaper "Die Welt" reported on February 16th. In one school where radio reporters carried out a poll, no child recognised the name Heine until a reporter gave a hint that he had been a poet. Then several children remarked: "Oh yes, he was a Jew".

In none of the schools visited by the reporters were there any books by Heine in the school libraries.

* * *

A GERMAN REPORT representative made a similar investigation in several East Berlin schools. The nine-year-olds all readily identified Heine as a great German poet, and ten-year-olds could say something about his life.

The German literature text book used by eleven-year-olds contains six of Heine's lyrical poems, and every German literature text-book used in the schools deals with the poet with samples of his work. And Heine's works are to be found in every library.

EAST GERMAN MINERS, RAILWAYMEN BEAT COLD

The miners, railwaymen and other workers of the German Democratic Republic have taken special measures to beat the "deep freeze" weather which prevailed throught the Republic for the whole of the month of February.

On the railways two-thirds of the office employees volunteered for special outside duties to keep the trains running during the crisis period, and as a result of their work there were no serious delays of either passanger or freight trains. In the open-cast mines which provide most of East Germany's coal production figures were kept up nearly to the normal figure, although the coal was frozen solid.

On February 22nd the Government announced that 213 workers had been awarded medals and a special bonus of 1000 marks each for outstanding work in keeping production and transport running under extremely difficult conditions.

DR BRAEUTIGAM'S WAR DIARY

On the following pages we present the first English publication of extracts from the war-time diary of Dr Otto Braeutigam, leading nazi official who is now head of a department in the West German Foreign Ministry. The diary, which has recently been discovered, was made available to the press by the Committee for German Unity in Berlin. All words and sentences in brackets are editorial insertions, and do not form part of the diary text.

1941

June 11th: I am beginning this diary late in the year, and it happens to be on the day on which my dear mother died 12 years ago. I always think of her.

I am now on leave from the Foreign Ministry, and working in the Rosenberg Organisation. We are preparing for great events. (Alfred Rosenberg, "philosopher" of the Nazi Party, and head of the Political Department of the party, headed an organisation which prepared the integration of eastern Europe in the nazi system. This organisation was later converted into the "Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories")

This afternoon I visited the Supreme Command of the Army to introduce myself to Quartermaster General Wagner. **In the near future I shall be attached to the Supreme Command of the Army as expert from the Rosenberg Organisation.** Instead of the official uniform which I have still not got, I shall wear the uniform of a captain, and thus be able to put on the field grey jacket which I had given up hoping for.

I was received by Major von Altenstaedt, who seems to be an excellent man. Then Ministerial Director Dankwort (probably Dr Werner Dankwort, now West German Ambassador to Canada) appeared, and finally the General, with whom I had a detailed discussion on my former activities, my future duties, and the political aims of Reich-Leader Rosenberg. I returned home at 9 p. m.

June 13th: Gertrud (Braeutigam's wife) returned from Bucharest by plane this afternoon. She had had a fine time, and bought a lot of nice things. She brought me a lovely gabardine coat, two pairs of shoes, slippers and ties.

June 22nd: Outbreak of war with the Soviet Union. Now the conflict with Bolshevism has finally begun. It had to come if a final pacification and new ordering of Europe was to be achieved. For most people the outbreak of the war was a great surprise, since camouflage had been continued up to the last moment.

We were round our radio early today, and heard the Fuehrer's proclamation and the speech of the Reich Foreign Minister. After breakfast I went to the Supreme Command of the Army in connection with attachment of representatives of the Reich-Leader to the various army groups.

June 23rd: The day was taken up with the preparations for my military duties. It had been agreed that I should go to the Supreme Command of the Army as representative of Reich-Leader Rosenberg, and put on military uniform since the Rosenberg Organisation, that is to say the later Reich Ministry, has not yet got a uniform of its own. I have been attached to the Supreme Command as a Reserve Captain. I quickly collected the missing parts of my uniform, as well as a car, radio and typewriter.

June 24th: The Supreme Command sent me a car, and I drove to Wuensdorf, where the train was waiting . . . The next day at 6 p. m. we reached Angerburg (East Prussia)

My job is that of liaison officer of Reich-Leader Rosenberg with the Supreme Command of the Army. There is a "War Administration Department" attached to the Quartermaster General, which has the job of looking after base areas until they are taken over by the civil administration.

My job is to see that the military administration acts in the spirit of the later civil administration, and to inform headquarters about everything that happens.

June 28th: The representative of the Foreign Ministry attached to the Supreme Command is Legation Counsellor von Etzdorf. (Today Hasso von Etzdorf is department head in the West German Foreign Ministry. During the nazi period he was officer in the brown-shirted SA, and admitted at the Nuremberg Trials participation in looting art works from occupied France.) Together with him we travelled in the evening to Insterburg, where we spent some pleasant hours in a restaurant.

July 7th: Visit to the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces near Rastenberg, to see General Warlimont and Lieutenant Colonel von Tippelskirch. Warlimont used to be my regimental commander.

July 11th: Travelled with Dr Kleist to Kovno (Kaunas, in occupied Soviet Lithuania) . . . The Lithuanian towns which we passed showed all the signs of war. In Kovno there was quite a lot of traffic, the people looked serious, probably because of their concern about getting their daily bread. There was little to be seen in the town of any enthusiasm at the liberation from Bolshevism, though the mass of the population must certainly be happy about this.

With our silent complicity Lithuanian auxiliary police have carried out many pogroms against the Jews. In addition the Jews, whose clothes are marked with a yellow patch on the back, have been driven together in working columns.

We were invited to lunch by General Rocques, and afterwards we wandered through the town.

July 13th: (In Berlin) In the morning I visited the office (of the Rosenberg Organisation) but met nobody. In the afternoon we went to our new house in Zehlendorf. It has a nice garden with lots of fruit trees. I was very busy picking cherries.

July 14th: In the morning with the Reich-Leader (Rosenberg). In the evening I returned to my post by sleeping car.

July 16th: The Reich-Leader journeyed to Hitler (in his command post) to accept his appointment as Reich Minister for the occupied Eastern Territories. I met him about 1 p. m. at the airfield, and we journeyed straight away to the Fuehrer. He appeared a short while later and invited us to lunch. Before this I had encountered Dr Dietrich, my old regimental comrade, with whom I had a long talk. Guests at lunch included Field Marshall Keitel, sitting in his usual place opposite the Fuehrer; Dr Dietrich; Reich-Leader Bormann ...

At 3 p. m. the Reich Marshal (Goering) appeared, and with him and with Reich Minister Lammers the negotiations began. About 6 p. m. there was a pause for coffee, during which the Reich Marshal particularly thanked the Fuehrer for the great honour (Knight's Cross with Diamonds) which he had conferred on fighter pilot Lieutenant Colonel Moelders. The Reich Marshal was in a very good mood because of this.

The Fuehrer criticised the Swedes very sharply, because they had raised only a very small contingent for the fight against Bolshevism, and the Reich Marshal described the Swedes as 'decadent'. But the Finns got great praise for their brave conduct.

After the pause the negotiations continued ... At about 8.30 p. m. agreement was finally reached. As a result of the negotiations Bialistock will be attached to East Prussia, and, what is very painful, Lvov and the whole of Galicia will be attached to the General-Gouvernement. This is a hard blow for the Ukrainians, and an unhappy start for our Ukrainian policy.

A compromise was reached with the Reich Marshal, who controls the economy in the occupied eastern territories through the Wirtschaftsfuehrungsstab Ost, and with the Reichsfuehrer SS (Heinrich Himmler) who would not relinquish his control from Berlin over the SS Police formations, even after the introduction of the civil administration.

Everything will have to be left to actual practice, but it will be difficult for the civil administration to rule the country without full control over the police and the economy. The Reich-Leader (Rosenberg) stated that there had been serious opposition to all candidates for the posts of Reich Commissars (in the occupied territory), but that all candidates had finally been accepted. They are: Gauleiter Lohse for the Reich Commissariat Ostland; Ambassador Kasche for the Reich Commissariat Russia, with headquarters in Moscow; Gauleiter Koch for the Reich Commissariat Ukraine; and Staff-Leader Schickedanz for the Reich Commissariat Caucasus, together with Ambassador Neubacher in charge of economy.

In the meantime the Fuehrer had discussed the situation with the Field Marshal (Keitel) and appeared at dinner at 9 p. m. ... There were sharp attacks against Ambassador von Papen, who had submitted a plan to the Fuehrer to allow missionary activity in the occupied areas obviously through Rome. The Fuehrer received this suggestion with great disfavour, and forbade any religious outside influence on this territory. After a short period of consideration, however, the Fuhrer said it might be better to allow all Christian confessions to enter, because they would then probably break each other's skulls with their crucifixes.

The Fuehrer questioned very strongly the sense of sacrifice and readiness for martyrdom of the clerics of today. Fanatical Communists were obviously much readier to suffer death for their convictions than the clerics.

Returning to the afternoon coffee-hour, it should also be noted that the Fuehrer described the complete Germanisation of the Crimea as necessary ...

July 12th: We met with Reich Minister Lammers to draft the necessary Fuehrer Order. (Hans Lammers, Chief of the Reich Chancellory. Sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for war crimes by American court in April 1949. Released December 1951.) Before lunch, to which we had been invited by Reichsfuehrer Himmler, the Reich-Leader (Rosenberg) took a walk with Dr Koeppen and myself. We naturally discussed the problems facing the future civil administration. Lunch was served in the restaurant car of the train, and was quite good.

After a short walk we returned to the train, while the Reich-Leader and Dr Lammers gave the last polish to the Fuehrer Order.

The Reichsfuehrer SS (Himmler) suddenly appeared and asked whether we had yet been served with coffee and cakes. When I said we had not, he immediately gave an order, and we soon had our coffee.

About 6 p. m. we returned to the Fuehrer's Headquarters ... and after a last discussion lasting about ninety minutes the orders were finally signed, with the date of July 17th. The main order concerned the establishment of a Ministry for Occupied Eastern Territories, and the appointment of Alfred Rosenberg as Reich Minister.

After dinner we sat together until 3. a. m., since the Reich-Leader had become involved in a discussion with Dr Lammers. The Fuehrer retired soon after the meal. Naturally, after Rosenberg had been appointed Reich Minister I extended him my heartiest congratulations.

I should also add that before dinner on July 16th, the Reich-Leader introduced me to the Fuehrer as the last General Consul in Batum; the Fuehrer shook my hand very warmly .

August 11th: Journey to Riga to visit Dr Kleist. I went to the Casino in Riga and had a very good lunch. Most shops were still shut, and people in the streets looked serious as they hurried past. There were few signs of joy at the overthrow of the Bolsheviks, or of enthusiasm for the liberators. Particularly noticeable in the streets were the Jews, who all wore a big yellow star on their breasts.

August 12th: Did some shopping in the "Wehrmacht Store". There was not much to be had. But my driver had obtained 50 pounds of butter, and we shared this between us.

August 16th: (In Berlin) In the morning and afternoon talks with State Secretary Backe on the question of the peasant collectives (in the occupied Soviet territories). It is necessary to find a compromise between the need to work with big economic units, and the dislike of the peasants for the collective system. The solution was found in a gradual retreat from the collective system.

August 23rd: Played bridge with Ministerial Director Dankwort, Major von Altenstaedt and Lieutenant von Goertzke. (Repeated bridge parties and big meals are a feature of the diary.)

September 2nd: I was invited to a meal of mushrooms in the officer's mess. The meal was improved by a few glasses of Lanson which the mess brought with it from France.

September 3rd: Arrival in Berlin ... The next few days passed with hard work. At home it was very comfortable, and the children gave me much joy. Getting in the plum harvest in the garden was a great occasion.

September 8th: English air attack ... We spent the night in the air raid shelter, which is always a nice change for the children.

September 14th: ... The Reich-Leader has proposed to deport all Jews from Central Europe to the eastern territories under our control, and I received cable instructions to get the Fuehrer's approval for this project. I got into my car and visited first of all Lieutenant-Colonel Tippelskirch in the Wehrmacht Leadership Staff. Both he and General Warlimont agreed that the Wehrmacht had not much interest in this proposition. So I continued my journey to the Fuehrer's headquarters, where I asked for the Fuehrer's adjutants Colonel Schmundt and Major Engel, but they were not available.

I had a short talk with General Bodenschatz, and was then sent to General Jodl, who also tried to get out of the affair, and suggested that the Foreign Ministry would be responsible. In addition, transport difficulties would cause the breakdown of the project.

Finally I found Colonel Schmundt, and to my great surprise he immediately requested details, with the words that this was a very important and urgent affair, in which the Fuehrer was greatly interested. He would let me know how things were progressing. Glad to have been able to carry out my mission, I returned to my quarters.

September 15th: Since I was very interested in what was happening to the proposal made by the Reich-Leader, I rang up Colonel Schmundt in this connection. He connected me with Field Marshal Keitel, who told me that the Fuehrer had ordered that the Foreign Ministry should first be consulted. I therefore rang Hevel, but only his deputy, Baron Steengracht, was there. He passed me on to Ambassador von Rintelen, who told me that Ribbentrop had not yet taken a decision, but wished to speak about the matter personally with the Fuehrer. (Dr Emil von Rintelen was nazi Foreign Ministry representative with the Wehrmacht in Rumania. In 1952 he was appointed professor at West German Diplomatic Academy.)

September 21st: (In Berlin) Dieter's birthday party. Despite the war he had plenty of presents ... We had lovely cakes, baked by mummy.

September 22nd: Visited Embassy-Counsellor Draeger in the Foreign Ministry to talk about the transfer of personnel to the Reich Ministry for Occupied Eastern Territories ... Then mummy roasted a duck.

September 24th: Long talk with Reich Commissar Lohse on his conflict with the Wehrmacht Commander. (Lohse, Reich Commissar for "Ostland" was sentenced to ten years imprisonment in West Germany in 1948 for war crimes. He was released in 1951, and now lives on a pension granted by the West German Government.)

In the morning a conference on the centralisation of transport in the occupied eastern territories, with General von Schell, who has been named by the Reich Marshal (Goering) as general representative in the east. In the afternoon meeting on the introduction of new mark currency in the eastern territories, which was approved in principle.

September 26th: In the Fuehrer's headquarters I had a meeting with Lieutenant-Colonel von Tippelskirch, who told me of the complaints of the Supreme Command of the Wehrmacht against Reich Commissar Lohse. Afterwards we had a pleasant dinner together.

September 29th: Reich Minister Rosenberg arrived at 12.30 at Rastenburg airfield, where I met him and took him to the Fuehrer's headquarters. We had lunch soon after our arrival. The Fuehrer was in a very good mood, obviously because of the good news from the front. I sat next to Colonel Schmundt, the Fuehrer's first military adjutant, and had a very lively conversation with him. After lunch there was a discussion lasting nearly five hours, during which time I went for a walk with Dr Koeppen and Dr. Marquardt, now adjutant of the Minister.

At dinner the Fuehrer strongly criticised Schacht, whom he described as a critic at all costs. He (Schacht) was certainly complaining now that we were not advancing quickly enough into Russia. Then when we advanced quickly he would criticise this by saying we were getting lost in the vastness of Russia. After dinner the Minister (Rosenberg) told us that after a stiff struggle the Fuehrer had approved the Ukrainian policy, but only in a reserved form.

September 30th: Back again (to Hitler's H. Q) at 11 a. m. We went for a walk with the Minister, and then he had a conference with Reich-Leader Bormann, while I had a talk with his adjutant Dr Heim, who is an art historian and very interested in Russia ... Then we journeyed to Rominten to visit the Reich Marshal ... While the Minister conferred with the Reich Marshal we had coffee in the great hall.

(After returning to Hitler's H. Q.) Hitler spoke in detail at dinner about events in the Protectorate (occupied Czechoslovakia), where Heydrich had been named Protector instead of Neurath in order to put things in order. As is well known, the Czech government had issued orders for the production of armaments to be sabotaged. Production had declined between 20% and 30%, ammunition had been made with bad fuses, and even the armour plating from Skoda had faults which could only be due to deliberate sabotage. Prime Minister Elias and other Ministers had been arrested and sentenced to death. The Fuehrer said that there could be no question of a reprieve, since treachery behind the back of a fighting army was the greatest crime. In addition it would be a good lesson for other countries like Holland and Norway when they saw that he was ready to extend just punishment even to a Prime Minister. Actually however Elias was reprieved a few days later.

The Fuehrer also spoke very sharply against Bishop von Galen, who had sent him a letter protesting against the expulsion of monks from Westphalian monasteries. He (Hitler) said that if a head was too thick, then there was nothing for it but to chop it off.

October 6th: (In Berlin) Dr Leibrandt has made a journey to the Ukraine. From today I am acting for him as head of the political department.

October 23rd: Liebrandt is back from the Ukraine, and invited me to share a goose which he brought with him.

October 27th: Conference with Major Emmerich about the economic prospects for the Soviet Union in the field of armaments after losing so much territory. Consultation with Captain Hartmann about the transport of (one word unreadable) to the Reich Commissariat Ukraine.

October 29th: Discussion with Dr Siebert-Meyer about the staff for Mitau. In the afternoon journey to Lieutenant-Colonel von Tippelskirch in Wehrmacht Leadership Staff, and discussion of all current problems of civil and military administration. The charge was made that Reich Minister Rosenberg is incapable, and therefore gets pushed into the corner.

October 31st: In the morning discussion with Lieutenant-Colonel Radke on propaganda questions. In the afternoon visit in the operations department to discuss Caucasus problems with Captain Krueger.

November 20th: I was x-rayed by Dr Motz, because I have been having a lot of stomach trouble. Dr Motz was an old acquaintance from the Alsatian Association, to which I belonged from 1920. (The Alsatian Association was a German militarist organisation agitating for the conquest by Germany of French Alsace.)

December 3rd: Instructions in the Foreign Ministry with Ambassador Hentig on Turkestan policy. (Dr Werner Otto von Hentig now West German Ambassador to Indonesia.)

December 11th: Session of the Reichstag for which I got a ticket. The Fuehrer announced the declaration of war on the USA, and announced new pact between Germany, Italy and Japan.

December 18th: In the afternoon a tea reception at Utikal's. In the evening dinner with Reich Leader Rosenberg at the Bellevue. Shortly after 9 p. m. I went to the station to take a train for East Prussia.

(Braeutigam neglects to mention that on this date he signed a letter to the "Reich Commissar Ostland", ordering the liquidation of the Jews of Latvia "without regard to economic factors." More details about this letter are given on page 49 of this issue.)

1942

January 1st: A year of great decision has begun. Almost the whole world is in flames. The luck of war is not on our side at the moment.

January 20th: I held a lecture to the Counterespionage Dept. II of the Supreme Command of the Wehrmacht on present problems in eastern policy. Lunch at Horchers on the invitation of Admiral Canaris. (Head of the nazi-counter-espionage system).

January 30th: Fuehrer's speech in the Sportpalast, to which I received an invitation. The speech was very flowing, and envisaged great victories for 1942.

February 3rd: Discussion with Reich Commissar Koch on agrarian policy. (Erich Koch, nazi Commissar for the Ukraine, was responsible for the great Kiev pogrom in September 1941.)

February 13th: In the afternoon meeting with three Commissars for Eastern Territories to discuss the introduction of the new constitution. In the evening, dinner in the House of the German Labour Front, at which I held a lecture on the new "edict of tolerance".

February 15th: Rosenberg visited the Fuehrer, who approved the agrarian policy for which we have fought so long.

March 5th: In the evening Hetmann Skoropadski visited me, and we talked over Ukrainian problems. (Skoropadski was an Ukrainian fascist who fought against Soviet Russia with German militarist support in 1918—1920.)

(The diary contains no entry for the date March 11th, on which day Braeutigam signed instructions for the transportation and subsequent liquidation of thousands of Rumanian Jews.)

March 25th: I addressed the Osttagung (Eastern Conference) on property problems in the occupied eastern territories.

May 8th: Big conference in Berlin on re-privatisation (in occupied parts of Soviet Union.)

May 14th: This morning my children congratulated me on my birthday . . . I have been awarded the War Service Cross.

May 21st: I have been named ministerial director.

May 22nd: The Minister (Rosenberg) formally handed me documents of appointment.

May 28th: I set out with the Minister (and other officials) for a visit to the Central Army Group, as the result of an invitation from Field Marshal von Kluge. We left Berlin in the private railway carriage of the Minister, which was formerly Marshal Petain's carriage . . . We sat together with the Minister for a long time, drinking champagne, which was unfortunately rather warm.

June 16th: (In Berlin) big conference with Reich Commissar Lohse and the General Commission on questions of the eastern territories, including the question which greatly interests me of re-privatisation in the former Baltic States. I made a speech on this subject.

June 26th: We had a great celebration in honour of my appointment to the Department of Military Administration. 25 guests, cold duck, and orchestra, very nice.

June 27th: In the afternoon discussed Caucasus problems with Brigade-Leader Zimmermann and Major Gloger, over cups of real coffee and glasses of champagne.

Juli 9th: In the afternoon conference with the Gauleiter (no name given) on re-privatisation problems.

(From July 27th 1942 until December 27th 1942 there are no further diary entries. The entries are continued with a resume of events in the missing period.)

December 27th: I now have the task of galloping through the events of the last five months . . . On September 12th I travelled with Captain Zimmermann and Professor Mende to the Supreme Command of the Army at Vinnitza to discuss the appointment of our representative with Army Group A . . . I stayed there for several days. On the last day of my stay Lieutenant-Colonel von Altenstaedt disclosed that the Quartermaster General had proposed me for the post, and the Fuehrer, remarking that he knew me, agreed. In Vinnitza life was fairly normal, though the population has not got much to eat, and looks in no way happy . . . (The big Jewish community of Vinnitza had been completely wiped out by special SS murder squads in September 1941).

At the end of October the Reich Minister finally took the decision to appoint me to the post of representative with Army Group A.

I had to make my preparations quickly, and have an 'East Uniform' (special uniform for officials of the Ministry for Occupied Eastern Territories) made, since it was intended that I should wear this uniform and not Wehrmacht uniform. On November 10th the day of my departure for the Caucasus had finally come.

I was very nicely received in Stavropol (Voroshilovsk) by SS Police Leader Korsemann (Korsemann had been sent to the Caucasus from Rovno, where he had personally supervised on November 6th 1941 the murder of 15,000 Jews in two days.)

My task consisted of staying in close contact with all branches of the military administration, in order to ensure a common political line. I was received in a friendly way everywhere, and there was a general recognition of the necessity of such political coordination.

I should mention that in Nalchik I met Professor Oberlaender, who leads the mountain group, destined for special tasks in the mountains, such as provoking risings of the mountain tribes. (Professor Theodor Oberlaender, former major in Hitler's brown-shirted SA, is today Minister for Refugees in the West German Government.)

(The remainder of Otto Braeutigam's diary deals with the German retreat from the Caucasus in the winter of 1942—43. The last entry in the diary deals with the events of February 2nd 1943. The diary fragment which has been found ends with the following words:)

February 2nd: . . . We spent the evening very jollily in the officers' mess.

BRITISH BOOK CONFIRMS BRAEUIGAM'S CRIMES

On other pages of this issue we present extracts from the war-time diary kept by Dr Otto Braeutigam, today Chief of the Eastern European Department of the West German Foreign Ministry. During the war, Braeutigam held high official positions in the nazi "Ministry for Occupied Eastern Territories".

Details of Braeutigam's war-time crimes may be found in the book "The Final Solution" by Gerald Reitlinger, published by Vallentine, Mitchell, London 1953. Here are some relevant extracts from this book:

"Lohse (Reich Commissar Ostland, ed.) had been reported to Rosenberg's office as early as October for impeding the massacres in Libau. On November 15th (1941, ed.) he asked for a ruling whether all 'Ostland' Jews were to be killed without regard to the economic situation. The reply from Rosenberg's office did not reach Riga until December 18th. It was signed by Otto Braeutigam of the Ministry's political department. Braeutigam wrote that by now the Jewish question in the Ostland 'had almost certainly been settled in verbal discussions' but on principle, economic considerations were not to apply at all. Such matters should in any case be settled with the Higher SS and Police Leaders." (p. 219)

(The full text of the letters in question is reproduced in Volume XII of the book "The Trial of German Major War Criminals" published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, under reference No. PS 3666.)

"Rademacher now received two reports on Eichmann's 'security measures' from Rosenberg's office. On May 16th (1942, ed.) he learned that 28,000 Jews had been brought back to the racial German colonies of Transdniestria 'where they were liquidated'. The report of May 23rd, signed by Otto Braeutigam, said only that a large portion of the Jews in Transdniestria had died, and that others had been transported to Odessa." (p. 402)

(The text of these reports is reproduced under reference No. PS 3319 in the documents of the Nuremberg Trial, and under reference No. NG 4817 in the documents of the Wilhelmstrasse Trial.)

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Following revelations about Braeutigam's part in the liquidation of the Jews, the West German Foreign Office was forced to suspend him from duty in January 1956. On February 22nd it was announced in Bonn that a special commission had been established to consider the "allegations" made against him.

THE OLD OLD STORY

West German Commentator Brands Renazification

By Helmut Hammerschmidt, Commentator of the Bavarian Radio, West Germany

(Those West German liberals who do not have their heads firmly buried in the sand are becoming increasingly alarmed by the steadily growing renazification of public life in West Germany. On February 7th 1956 Helmut Hammerschmidt, commentator of the Bavarian Radio, broadcast a long and striking commentary on such developments. On this page we present a condensed version of his talk.)

This analysis concerns itself with one of the most unpleasant manifestations of the present time. For the purposes of this talk I have drawn up a short list. It is a relatively harmless list, since it would take me until tomorrow afternoon if I were to read to you the 20 most important (neonazi) incidents of the last three months, the most hair-raising quotations from a few court judgments, and quotations from 40 different periodicals, 80 newly published books, and from about 200 meetings and rallies.

But just listen to this short list, which has the advantage of recording only events, and not quotations. You must decide for yourself who is to be blamed — those who collect such facts, or those who create them. Here are the facts:

In Luchow a memorial meeting was held for Konstantin Hierl, deceased Fuehrer of the Reich Labour Service.

In Wuerzberg the Horst Wessel Song (nazi anthem, ed.) was sung at a rally of parachute troops.

In Goslar, medals decorated with the swastika were worn at a meeting of the Stahlhelm.

In Munich the HIAG, the organisation of former members of the SS, addressed a threatening letter to the police president.

In Mannheim a waiter turned coloured students out of a beer-shop, saying: "This is not a Hottentot kraal, but a cafe for former German front-line soldiers."

The Minister for Social Services of Schleswig-Holstein named a former nazi Gau Propaganda Leader as his press officer.

The Velbert Labour Office appointed as director a former colleague of Himmler in the Reich Commissariat for Strengthening German Folkdom in the East.

Munich University awarded the Chair of International Law to a close collaborator of Rippentrop, and former editor of the nazi monthly magazine for foreign policy.

In the leadership of the Free Democratic Party in Lower Saxony the following are represented: one nazi district leader, one labour front leader, one Hitler Youth area leader, one Goebbel's adjutant, the nazi Lord Mayor of Brandenburg and others.

Dr Ernst Lautz, former public prosecutor in the nazi People's Court, lives in Luebeck and receives a monthly pension of 1,342 marks.

Walter Schroeder, nazi Police President of Luebeck and later SS General

in Riga receives a pension of 1000 marks monthly.

The Oldenburg Administration Court ruled that a former nazi district leader who was responsible for several people being sent to concentration camp, was a fitting person to be a teacher.

The Luebeck Restitution Office declared to a woman who had been imprisoned in Stutthof Concentration Camp: "If you had not supplied that foreigner with food, then you would not have been sent there."

A Munich teacher set his class as a writing exercise the sentence: "The Jews killed Christ."

General Foertsch, author of the "Book of Discipline for Officers True to Hitler" has been officially assigned to NATO by the Federal Defence Ministry to help in the compilation of a book on NATO.

(The commentary quoted about twenty more similar cases of developments in West Germany in the past few months.)

This is the list . . . There is nothing particularly novel about it, they are old old stories. But the ordinary newspaper reader either hears nothing about them at all, or in such homeopathic doses that perhaps his heart beats a little harder once a week or so. It is only when these cases are collected that they appear so alarming.

(Herr Hammerschmidt then recalled that three years ago the Bavarian Radio had drawn attention to renazification in the West German Foreign Office, and had named leading officials who had been personally involved in the liquidation of thousands of Jews).

We stated then, and we state again today: whether these officials were guilty or not guilty in a juridical sense does not concern us: but they have no right to be in leading positions, and in the same machinery. The Foreign Ministry is only one example, and in the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Refugees the situation is no whit better.

Nobody can claim that it is impossible, in 1956, to find a few thousand intelligent men and women, with strong characters and politically unstained . . .

An overwhelming majority of our people do not want a repetition of what has gone before. And it is the task of all of us to see that it does not happen so that we can, in future, call ourselves honest Germans, aware of our qualities and weaknesses.

* * *

The West German newspaper "Welt der Arbeit", official organ of the West German Trade Union Federation, has also warned against increasing indications of renazification. In its issue of February 17th this paper stated:

"For years we have been demanding energetic action by the Federal and Provincial authorities against those unteachable nazis who are using their elbows with increasing insolence . . . In all these cases it would be possible to end this neo-nazi activity by applying our Federal and Provincial laws. But it appears that our judicial authorities, for purely formal reasons, are refraining from applying the laws. Until the opposite is proved, we shall continue to believe that this reluctance is due solely to formal grounds."

("Welt der Arbeit" neglects to state that the judicial authorities, who should take action against the neo-nazis, are themselves honeycombed with former leading nazi functionaries and war criminals. GERMAN REPORT printed on February 3rd 1956 a list of 37 leading West German judges and prosecutors whose names appeared on the official war crimes list prepared by the United Nations during and after the Second World War.)

WEST GERMAN SCHOOLS SHOCK VISITOR

"Nothing Taught About Concentration Camps"

West German schools teach children nothing about Hitler's misdeeds. This is the conclusion reached by a German doctor now living in New York, who has just paid a visit to West Germany.

The doctor, Professor Rudolf R. Degkwitz, of 1060 Park Avenue, New York, wrote a letter exposing this untenable state of affairs, which was published on February 4th in the liberal Munich newspaper "Sueddeutsche Zeitung", and extracts from which we publish below. Professor Degkwitz will be pleased to see from the excerpts from the school history books used in the schools of the German Democratic Republic, also published below, that in East Germany school children are very fully informed about these subjects.

Here are the main points from Professor Degkwitz's letter:

"There is one fact about which it is impossible to remain silent . . . that the overwhelming majority of children (in West Germany, ed.) learn nothing about the persecution of the Jews, the concentration camps, the activities of the Gestapo, or about the World War which Hitler so irresponsibly provoked . . .

"That young people who will, through their votes, soon have a say in the internal and foreign policy of their country should still be deprived of knowledge of the greatest German political and moral catastrophe ten years after Hitler's death, is the darkest page in German post-war history . . .

"A clear line must be taken with reference to the past, a clear and understandable condemnation of this political banditry and its misdeeds must be proclaimed, and its background and causes objectively stated. Parents who label an objective teaching of history as horror propaganda . . . believe they are fulfilling their 'national duty' if they never admit that the nation as such has ever done any wrong . . ."

For purposes of comparison we quote extracts below from the history-book used by 14-year-olds in all schools in East Germany, the "Lehrbuch für den Geschichtsunterricht" (Textbook for History Teaching) published for the Ministry of Education of the German Democratic Republic by Verlag Volk und Wissen, 1954 edition. The book gives boys and girls a very full survey of the crimes committed by the nazis. The resistance movement in nazi-occupied Europe and the fight against Hitler inside Germany by Socialists, Communists and others also receives very full treatment.

Hitler Comes to Power

"In January 1933 Papen arranged a talk between Hitler and a group of heavy industrialists and bankers, in which final plans were drawn up for the nazis to take over . . . At the last moment, on January 30th 1933, the Communist Party called for a general

strike against Hitler with the words: "A bloody regime of fascist terror is being erected in Germany! Do not allow the mortal enemies of the German people to succeed in their criminal plans!" (page 183—184)

Nazi Concentration Camps (1933—1939)

"The Nazis erected great concentration camps in which hundreds of thousands of opponents of nazism were tortured and murdered. Between 1935 and 1939 350,000 Germans were sentenced to one million years of jail, and 14,000 anti-fascists were murdered by the nazis." (page 196)

Hitler's Attacks on Neighbouring Countries

"After the rape of Czechoslovakia, Hitler continued the predatory policy of expansion of German imperialism, forcing the Lithuanian Government to hand over Memel." (page 220)

"When it became obvious that Poland would not comply with Hitler's demands, the nazi press and radio began a wild campaign against the Polish state and the Polish people. They spread horror propaganda stories about the persecution and murder of Germans in Poland. Hitler declared he would never abandon his demands." (page 220)

"On Hitler's orders, Gestapo and SS men in Polish uniforms made a mock attack upon the Gliewitz Radio station, thus providing the excuse of Polish aggression... On September 1st the German armies, long held in readiness, invaded Poland." (page 222—223)

Hitler's Racial Policy

"In order to prepare for the enslavement of other peoples, the nazis used the weapon of racial hatred. The German people were told that they were supermen, appointed to rule over other peoples. The racial hatred was directed in the main against the Jews and the Slav peoples. The hate propaganda against the Jews, also known as anti-semitism, is an old weapon of the reactionaries. The fascist terror against the Jewish people began with racialist propaganda, and ended with the murder of many millions of Jews in the extermination camps." (page 200)

(The East German schoolbook devotes about four pages to Hitler's racial policy of extermination and extermination camps. Full details are given of fascist crimes in occupied territory and of the liquidation of many millions of Jews, Poles, Russians and other opponents of nazism.)

Nazi Campaign Against the West

"The campaign against the west opened on May 10th 1940 with the aggression of the nazi Wehrmacht against Holland and Belgium. One of Hitler's greatest crimes was his attack on the city of Rotterdam; it was completely flattened by the Luftwaffe, and more than 30,000 peaceful people were killed..."

"To prepare for the invasion planned, the nazi Luftwaffe began to make terrorist attacks on British cities. Hitler boasted: 'If the British air force drops 3000 or 4000 tons of bombs, then we shall drop in one night 300,000 or 400,000 tons. We shall wipe out their cities.' German air attacks caused serious destruction in Bristol, Liverpool, London and other cities, and smashed Coventry." (page 226)

The Guilt of the German People

After detailing the amount of damage done by the nazi Wehrmacht in the Soviet Union — burnt-out villages, bombed hospitals, churches, stations, harbours etc., blown-up bridges, looted museums and murdered people — the history book reminds children that: "All these figures show that the German imperialist robbers and the Nazi bandits whom they employed — and also the German people who allowed themselves to be misused — have burdened themselves with a great and irreparable load of guilt." (page 231)

"To the shame of our people it must be recorded that many soldiers of the nazi Wehrmacht looted the property of the people of the occupied countries." (page 233)

War Criminals

"The trial of the main war criminals was held in Nuremberg from November 20th 1945 to October 1st 1946. Never in human history had such terrible crimes been tried before a court. Never had criminal acts had such serious and wide-reaching results as in the case of these accused. The nazi fascists had prepared and fought the Second World War with indescribable brutality... This war caused about 27 million deaths. Huge areas had been completely devastated, and these criminals had brought hunger, poverty and misery to uncounted numbers... Twelve of the main war criminals were sentenced to death by hanging." (page 290 to 291)

A full-scale comparison of he school history books used in East and West Germany was published in GERMAN REPORT dated June 25th 1954. A few copies are still available for readers interested in this subject.

BOOK REVIEW

APOLOGIST FOR GERMAN MILITARISM

"The Rise and Fall of Nazi Germany" by T. L. Jarman. Cresset Press, London, 25s.

The number of books about recent German history is already legion, and the only reason for mentioning this latest volume is to utter a warning. This fat book by Mr Jarman purports to be "an accurate factual history" of the nazi period in Germany; it will probably find a place in many libraries, and be consulted by persons seeking factual information.

And superficially the book appears to offer just that. It sketches the rise and fall of Hitler, but the careful reader will note that although Hitler himself is condemned, the whole book is pervaded by the idea that nazism and German militarism would have been pretty good if they only had not been so crude.

Mr Jarman writes with approval, for instance, that after Hitler became Chancellor in 1933: "The main Nazi attack was directed against the Communists, which was good propaganda and sound tactics." He perpetuates the nazi legend that the Reichstag was fired in 1933 by "a young Dutch Communist", though it was conclusively proved at the Reichstag Fire Trial that Van der Lubbe was not a Communist.

The author devotes a whole chapter to what he calls "The Positive Side of the Nazi Regime" in which he makes the startling statement that: "Once more the Nazis were, even if for their own ends, doing a real work of popular education."

And in the same chapter, also with approval, Mr Jarman states: "If the Communists had been treated with brutality, they had certainly asked for it."

After remarks like this, it is not surprising to find that Mr Jarman finds racial hatred quite natural and apparently proper: "Thus Hitler reacted (against the Jews) in a direct, personal manner; he reacted much as a member of the white race reacts against the black..."

Mr Jarman's summing up at the end of his book is what might have been expected: "Dr Adenauer and the Federal Republic need friendly support, understanding and co-operation."
Quite.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

In the past few days I have been leafing through some of the hundreds of neo-nazi books which have appeared in West Germany in recent months. I knew that a lot of pro-Hitler literature was being published, but I was appalled by some of the things which I encountered when I started looking inside the books.

One of the main features of this flood of literature is the attempt to present the Second World War as an heroic struggle on the part of the nazis to "save European civilisation". Here for instance is what nazi General H. Ramcke has to say about it in his book "Parachutists, Then and Afterwards", published by the Lorch Verlag, Frankfurt am Main:

"The model conduct of the German Wehrmacht (in occupied France, ed.), its helpful attitude towards the French refugee masses, the humane and generous treatment given to prisoners of war, and the general measures of the occupation authorities created an atmosphere of trust. It is no exaggeration to say that there was a growing friendship between the German soldiers and the French civilian population... There were only small isolated instances of sabotage in occupied France, carried out by agents dispatched from London, who had no support amongst the population... I did nothing during the war of which I am ashamed, and I believe that great injustice has been done to me and to thousands of German soldiers."

Then there is the book "Europe Without Phrases" by Heinrich Sanden, published by the Druffel Verlag, Leoni am Starnberger See:

"The talk about 'people without living space' is no phrase, but a reality in an area where more people dwell than can live from the soil. Today Germany is a 'people without living space', and could be starved out. Europe must realise this danger. Adolf Hitler's policy was of course based on the idea that Germany's lack of space should be ended by an attack in the East, so that the food-stuff producing area of the Ukraine could be attached to central Europe, thus creating a new situation for the entire European continent."

Erich Kern, nazi propagandist who now specialises in writing "heroic front-line books" for young readers, sings a hymn of praise to the nazi hordes in his volume "Book of Heroism", published by the Druffel Verlag, Leoni am Starnberger See:

"Despite all the slanders, the memories are honoured of the brave men and brave deeds... the eternal soldierly verities of courage, steadfastness and selfless discipline. These are the stars from which our ancestors charted their paths, and they still light our path in the twentieth century."

In the book "The Last of Prague", published by the Dikreiter Verlag, Freiburg, the author Gero Wecker describes the soldiers of the Red Army as "drunken Asiatic swine" and calls all Czechs "sows". His praise is reserved for the nazi SS:

"The biggest bruisers make the best soldiers... The men of the Waffen SS are always up to the job."

The mass murderers of the SS are also praised at great length in the book "Waffen SS in Action", by SS General Paul Hausser, published by the Plesse Verlag, Goettingen. (Incidentally this publishing house is owned by Waldemar Schuetz, former SS officer who is today a member of the provincial parliament of Lower Saxony.) The introduction to this book is written by nazi General Heinz Guderian, who states:

"The Waffen SS was true to its oath, and valiant to the death... After the collapse the men of the SS were the objects of unjust accusations, but they remained true to themselves and to all those who had done their duty for Germany... We must not forget that the European idea was put into practice for the first time in this formation, and that links were forged between the nations of Europe which had better not have been broken."

Then there is the nazi apologist Hans Grimm, whose new book "Why: From Where: Where To?" has been published by the Klosterhaus Verlag, Lippoldsberg:

"(After the war) it became clear to me that the Jewish problem still existed, that it could not be solved by tolerance and compromises, but that it must be solved if the western world is to be saved in a biological and spiritual sense."

Many books by non-German fascists who collaborated with the nazis have also been published in West Germany recently. A typical example is the book "The Lost Legion" by Belgian fascist leader Leon Degrelle, who writes: "Hitler was the greatest statesman Europe has ever seen. Hitler dreamed of a just Europe, united by the initiative of the victor."

But I could fill many numbers of GERMAN REPORT with such quotations. If you will excuse me for a moment I will now go and wash my hands.

* * *

The man who writes the gossip column in the London "Evening News" was hard up for a story on February 13th, so he scraped around in the files and came up with this one:

"Then there is John Peet, another journalist, who was Reuter's correspondent in West Berlin. In June 1950 he crossed the sector boundary and joined the East Germans, saying as he did so that he 'was no longer disposed to serve the Western warmongers.' Today Peet has a little office at the top of three creaky flights of stairs in a building just off the Unter den Linden, where he brings out a propaganda sheet called German Democratic Report. His gawky figure is familiar at Communist congresses and other jamborees in Eastern Germany, but he has never been wholly accepted. For him the road eastwards has led nowhere."

Except up three creaky flights of stairs to the editorial chair of this paper, which he finds considerably preferable to the job of grinding out, at the best, half-truths for Reuters News Agency.

When I showed this cutting to a friend here, he remarked: "What the hell did they expect you to become — Prime Minister?" To which I have nothing to add.

* * *

We are always glad to get the addresses of people in all parts of the world to whom we can send specimen copies of GERMAN REPORT, but we have not got unlimited facilities for mailing samples to people who are probably not interested. I would address this paragraph in particular to the anonymous Canadian friend who has just sent us a copy of the Toronto Telephone Directory, apparently in the hope that we can send free copies to all the addresses given.

I quite agree it would probably be a good thing if all these telephone subscribers were to read the paper, but I am afraid most of them would not read it even if we sent it. So many thanks for the directory, but please only send us selected addresses of people who would be likely to read and appreciate the paper.

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